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Attorney's Docket No. 033033-007
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REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Claims 1-30 have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies and reference numerals, and to replace the words "characterized in that" with the word "wherein". These changes have been made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on November 7, 2000. Marked-up versions of Claims 1-30 indicating the changes accompany this Preliminary Amendment.

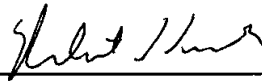
Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Claims 1-30

1. Shelf storage facility [(1)] comprising
 - = a plurality of shelf bays [(35)] whereof each presents a shelf [(41)] with an upper side[, a plurality of product supports [(42)] whereof one at a time is associated with a shelf bay [(35)] and whereof each presents a supporting surface] providing for [products (48) to be stored,] guiding means [(36, 37)] fixed to the shelf, whereof each is disposed in a shelf bay [(35)] and [which equal each other,] is configured as a guiding channel extending in the longitudinal direction of the shelf,
 - = a plurality of product supports whereof one at a time is associated with a shelf bay, which support is provided with guiding means [(43, 44)] fixed to [said] the product [supports (42), whereof each is associated with one product] support[(42)], which means equal each other [whilst they] and are complementary to said guiding means [(36, 37)] fixed to the shelf, [and] as well as a supporting surface for products to be stored, and
 - = a storage and retrieval device [(4)] designed for being moved in front of each of said shelf bays [(35)].
- wherein
 - = said product support is supported for displacement in the longitudinal direction relative to the guiding channel of the respective shelf,
 - = said product support comprises a receiving channel extending in the longitudinal direction and open in the upward direction, whose at least one face side has an open configuration, and

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= said storage and retrieval device provides for an actuating finger adapted to be engaged in said product support and to be displaced in the longitudinal direction, as well as at least one retaining finger that is pivotable into the clearance of said receiving channel open in the upward direction.

2. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf bays [(35)] are disposed in groups and that the shelves [(41)] of one group are connected to each other.

3. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf bays [(35)] are arranged in groups and that the shelves [(41)] of one group are connected to each other in an integral manner.

4. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf bays [(35)] are arranged in groups and that the shelves [(41)] of one group are disposed in a horizontal plane.

5. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to the introductory clause of Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein all shelf bays [(35)] present the same depth, measured in a

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direction orthogonal on a plane in which said storage and retrieval device [(4)] moves when it is positioned from one shelf bay [(35)] to another shelf bay [(35)].

6. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf bays [(35)] present different widths by groups.

7. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 5 [or 6], [characterised in that] wherein a respective shelf bay [(35)] is open to the respective laterally adjacent shelf bays [(35)].

8. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said guide means [(36, 37)] fixed to the shelf are formed by the geometry of the respective shelf [(41)].

9. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf [(41)] includes as guiding means, on its upper side, a guiding channel [(35)] open to the top and extending in the longitudinal direction of the shelf (41).

10. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf [(41)] presents two plane surfaces [(36, 37)] extending in a V-shaped

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configuration relative to each other and passing with this relative arrangement through the depth of the respective shelf bay [(35)].

11. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf [(41)] of a respective shelf bay [(35)] is merely formed by said two surfaces [(36, 37)] extending in a Vshaped configuration relative to each other.

12. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim[s] 11, [characterised in that] wherein said surfaces [(36, 37)] extending in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other are integral with each other.

13. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 11, [characterised in that] wherein said surfaces [(36, 37)] extending in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other enclose an angle of 90° therebetween.

14. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said shelf bays [(35)] are disposed in groups and that said shelves [(41)] of one group are formed by a corrugated plate [(32)].

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15. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 14, [characterised in that] wherein said plate [(32)] is connected to a beam [(31)] fastened on a shelf rack [(2, 17)], at an edge [(33)] remote from said storage and retrieval device [(4)].

16. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 15, [characterised in that] wherein said beam [(31)] is fastened in said shelf rack [(2, 17)] for vertical adjustment.

17. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein a plurality of shelf bays [(35)] is disposed in a rack [(17)] and that said rack [(17)] is supported in said shelf rack [(2)] in a mobile manner.

18. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein two shelf racks [(2, 17)] are disposed at a distance from and opposite each other and that said storage and retrieval device [(4)] is provided between said shelf racks [(2,17)].

19. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said product supports [(42)] are so designed that they rest by their underside directly on the respective shelf [(41)].

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20. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to any Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the underside of said product support [(42)] is adapted to the upper side of the associated shelf [(41)].

21. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said product support [(42)] presents positioning means [(47)] on its upper side in order to align and/or orient products [(48)] located on said product support [(42)].

22. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said product support [(42)] includes, in its upper side, a receiving channel [(47)] open in the upward direction and extending in the longitudinal direction of said product support [(42)].

23. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said product support [(42)] two plane surfaces [(43, 44)] which extend in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other and pass through the length of the respective product support [(42)] with this relative arrangement.

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Marked-up Claims 1-30

24. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said product support [(42)] of a respective shelf bay [(35)] is merely formed by said two surfaces [(43, 44)] extending in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other.

25. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 24, [characterised in that] wherein said surfaces [(43, 44)] extending in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other are integral.

26. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 24, [characterised in that] wherein said surfaces [(43, 44)] extending in a V-shaped configuration relative to each other enclose an angle of 90° therebetween.

27. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the length of said product support [(42)] is longer than the depth of the associated shelf bay [(35)].

28. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein all product supports [(42)] have the same length, independently of the width of the respective shelf bay [(35)].

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Marked-up Claims 1-30

29. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the length of a product support [(42)] is greater than the total of at least two, preferably three, products [(48)] of medium size, with the dimensions of said product [(48)] of medium size being calculated by approximation from the mean value of the dimensions of all products [(48)].

30. (Amended) Shelf storage facility according to Claim 29, [characterised in that] wherein products [(48)] having the same dimensions are considered merely once in the calculation of the mean value.